A WFP approach to operationalise resilience

Part 1: Integrated Context Analysis

WFP

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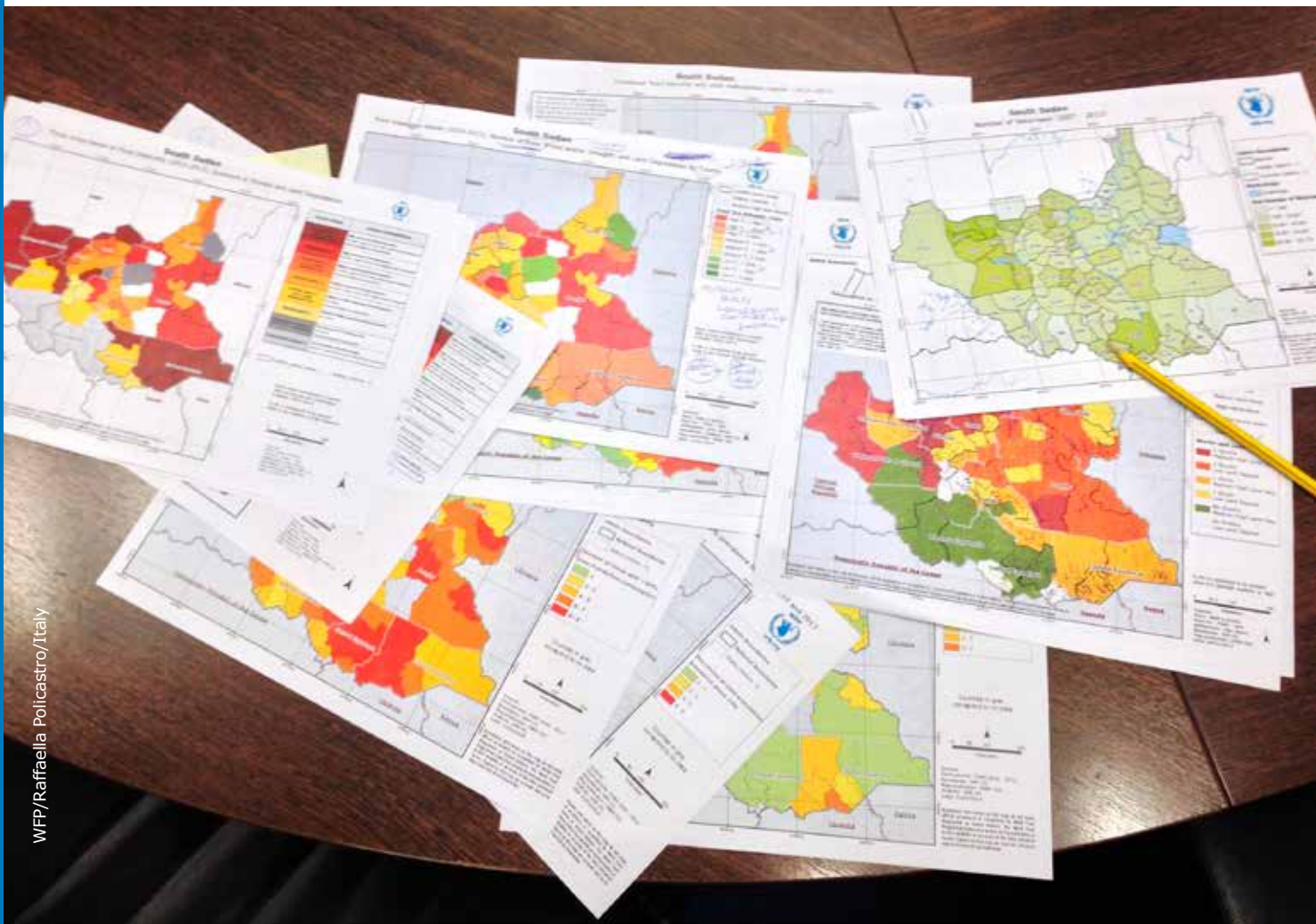# Part 1: Integrated Context Analysis

Background

WFP provides assistance to the most food insecure and vulnerable households and communities to build their resilience to shocks and ensure long-term food security and nutrition. Often, these people live in fragile landscapes and areas prone to frequent disasters and recurring shocks.

Working with governments and partners, WFP focuses efforts on building the resilience of these communities by strengthening their livelihoods and capacities to manage risks and shocks.
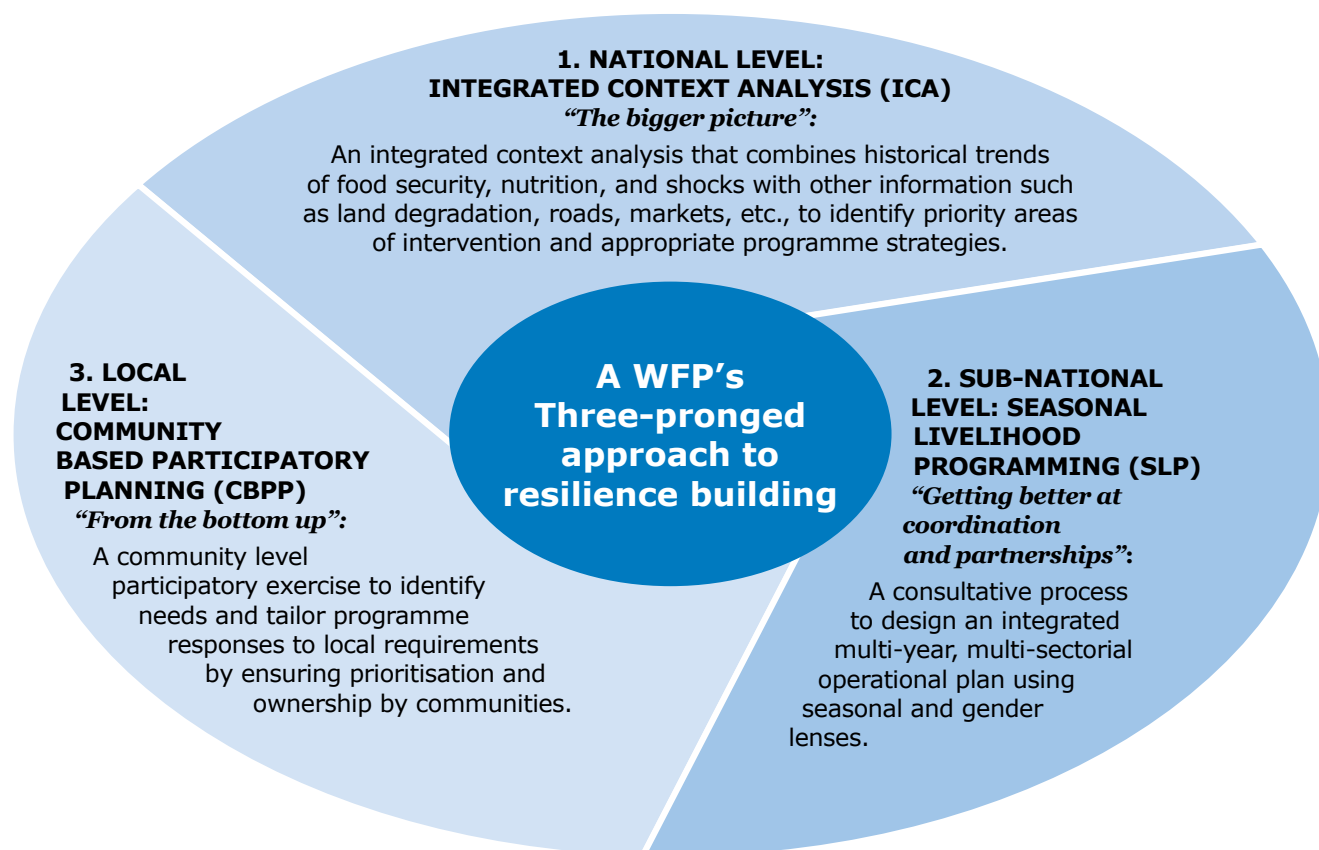
However, this requires a partnered effort, based on robust planning approaches that lay the foundations for structured and coordinated programming and operationalizing of activities.

WFP/Raffaella Policastro/Italy

WFP's 'three-pronged approach' for partnered resilience building efforts

The Integrated Context Analysis (ICA) is part of a broader three-step process, the 'three-pronged approach', that strengthens the design, planning and implementation of longer-term resilience building programmes, developed in partnership and aligned to national and local priorities. It places people and partners at the centre of planning, using converging analyses, consultations, and consensus-building at three different levels. This three-pronged approach contains new and innovative programming tools and frameworks to strengthen the identification, planning, and delivery of programmes.

The ICA is one of these new tools, building on converging evidence to inform strategic responses and planning at national levels. The ICA can be used to identify more specific programme responses and identifies areas where further in-depth studies are needed. They guide the identification of priority areas in which to conduct Seasonal Livelihood Programming consultations to identify area-specific complementary and multi-sectorial programmes with governments and partners, which in turn set the foundations for targeted joint efforts with communities and partners to plan and implement programmes through Community-Based Participatory Planning (CBPP).

**1. NATIONAL LEVEL:
INTEGRATED CONTEXT ANALYSIS (ICA)**
"The bigger picture":
An integrated context analysis that combines historical trends of food security, nutrition, and shocks with other information such as land degradation, roads, markets, etc., to identify priority areas of intervention and appropriate programme strategies.

**3. LOCAL LEVEL:
COMMUNITY BASED PARTICIPATORY PLANNING (CBPP)**
"From the bottom up":
A community level participatory exercise to identify needs and tailor programme responses to local requirements by ensuring prioritisation and ownership by communities.

A WFP's Three-pronged approach to resilience building

2. SUB-NATIONAL LEVEL: SEASONAL LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMMING (SLP)
"Getting better at coordination and partnerships":
A consultative process to design an integrated multi-year, multi-sectorial operational plan using seasonal and gender lenses.

What is Integrated Context Analysis (ICA)?

The ICA is a process used to identify and discuss the most appropriate programmatic strategies in specific geographical areas - including resilience building, disaster risk reduction, and social protection - between WFP, government, and partners. The ICA is based on historical trend analyses across a number of technical and sectorial disciplines, the findings of which are overlaid to identify areas of convergence. In particular, trend analyses provide an understanding of what has happened in the past as an indicator of what may occur in the future, and where short, medium, and longer-term programming efforts may be required.

ICA combines findings from trend analyses and complementary information on:
- **Food security and nutrition;**
- **Exposure and risk to shocks;**
- **Aggravating factors**, i.e. environmental factors that can increase the severity or impacts of shocks;
- **Livelihood types**; and
- **Additional information**, such as security and political contexts, markets and prices, infrastructure, population density, etc.

By analysing and overlaying the findings of these different data sets into maps, combinations of recurring food insecurity and undernutrition, shocks, and aggravating factors, can be identified – both geographically and by livelihood groups. These

in turn help identify overall programmatic strategies and guide where to focus deeper thematic analysis to inform the selection of programme activities, drawing on the comparative advantages and technical expertise of governments, partners, communities, and affected populations.

What is the purpose of the ICA?

The ICA provides a basis for strategic programmatic discussions by multiple stakeholders:

1. For Decision makers

ICA provides an overview of trends of food insecurity, undernutrition, and exposure to shocks, and shows where these converge. This information helps decision makers - such as government, WFP, and partners – to develop overall national programming strategies. For example, where recurring food insecurity and shocks converge, multi-year, inter-sectorial programmes to build resilience are required; in areas of recurring food insecurity yet no exposure to shocks are found, longer-term livelihood programmes and predictable safety nets could be considered; high shock-risk areas would require early warning and enhanced preparedness measures irrespective of levels of food insecurity.

INTEGRATED CONTEXT ANALYSIS

Overlays of maps for context-specific programme design

1 Food security & Nutrition 4-5 year historical trends

2 Exposure to Shocks Floods, droughts, conflict, etc.

3 Aggravating factors Land degradation, deforestation, slope, etc.

4 Livelihood types Who is affected - pastoralists, farmers, etc.

5 Additional information Population movements, infrastructure, etc.

2. For Programmers

Once overall priority areas and intervention strategies are identified by decision makers, ICA provides programmers with a deeper understanding of the context, such as landscapes, livelihoods, and locations of communities at risk. This contributes to the identification of partnerships, discussions around a more complementary approach to programme design tailored to local-level contexts, and further guides the selection of programme areas and activities to avoid broad duplications and gaps. For programmers, ICA builds the rationales for targeted, inter-sectorial, and multi-year programmes with partners, and contributes to identifying appropriate intervention types in specific areas – for example, by determining focus areas and linkages between seasonal support, recovery efforts, and resilience building; and better defining where protective and/or productive safety nets could be placed. ICA also assists in identifying where further specific thematic analyses may be required.

3. For Analysts

ICA conducts trends analyses using historical information derived from government, WFP, and partner assessments, monitoring and information systems, early warning outlooks and where required, models risks and aggravating factors. Based on principles of triangulation, areas where evidence is contradictory is highlighted for deeper exploration by analysts. Similarly, results from new assessments can be triangulated against ICAs to identify areas where condition may have improved, remained the same, or deteriorated. Findings from ICAs can contribute to identifying when, where, and what type of information may be needed according to different contexts within a country to inform future assessment and monitoring design. By using historical data to conduct trend analyses, information from current assessments and monitoring used for short to medium-term programme design also becomes a contribution to inform longer-term programming through ICA updates.

Who carries out the ICA?

The ICA is a joint effort that brings together different disciplines and information within WFP:

- **Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM)** conduct analyses on trends of food security, nutrition, and market information using VAM and other partner data, such as the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) and the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), and partner assessments and monitoring systems in order to triangulate the information and understand variations in the information.

- **Emergency Preparedness and Response (OMEP)** conduct trend analyses of shocks, uses remote sensing and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to model risks based on climatic patterns, environmental features and levels of land degradation, population densities, and infrastructure.

- **Programme Units** guide the overlays of these data sets and analyses through a programmatic lens, and select areas of strategic and programmatic focus in consultation with stakeholders.

How does it work?

Integrated context analysis consists of mapping and overlaying the following trend analyses and thematic information.

1. Trends of food security and nutrition

Unlike emergency responses, multi-year plans and programmes must be based on an understanding of historical food security and nutrition patterns. Historical trend analyses help distinguish between areas with recurring and deep-rooted food insecurity and undernutrition, and those that may be more transitory or seasonal in nature.

For example, **map 1** presents the findings of a food security trend analysis **in Kenya**. Combining

MAP 1. FOOD SECURITY TRENDS AND PEOPLE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE
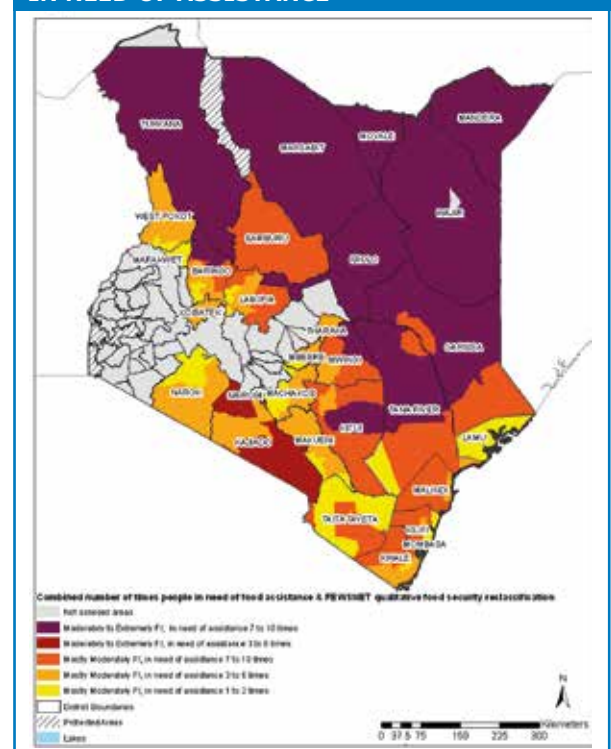
Combined number of times people were in need of food assistance with reclassified FEWS NET Quarterly Outlook food security classifications (Kenya, 2007-2012).

results from two data sets (FEWS NET and Kenya Short and Long Rains Assessments), this map brings together the overall food security trends of the area and shows how often people would have experienced which level of food insecurity in the last five years. Areas in purple show where food insecurity is recurring, while areas in orange and yellow show where it is less frequent.

The food and nutrition security analysis is the starting point of the ICA and becomes the base layer for the rest of the ICA. When food security information is not available, other data sets – for example poverty – can be used as a proxy for food security.

2. Exposure to shocks

Once the food security and nutritional base layer has been made, it is overlaid with a trend analysis of the most common shock(s), or risks to those shock(s), that are experienced in the country. Although it is impossible to predict with any certainty when a shock will happen, historical trend analyses of actual shock occurrences (and in particular for natural shocks) provide insights into the likelihood of these events occurring in the future. By combining the food security and nutrition base layer with trends of shocks, geographical areas or recurring food insecurity, undernutrition, and shocks are identified where longer-term programmes to build resilience against crises can be targeted. Similarly, areas will be identified with recurring food insecurity yet low exposure to shocks (or its inverse combination).

MAP 2. EXPOSURE TO SHOCKS AND FOOD SECURITY TRENDS
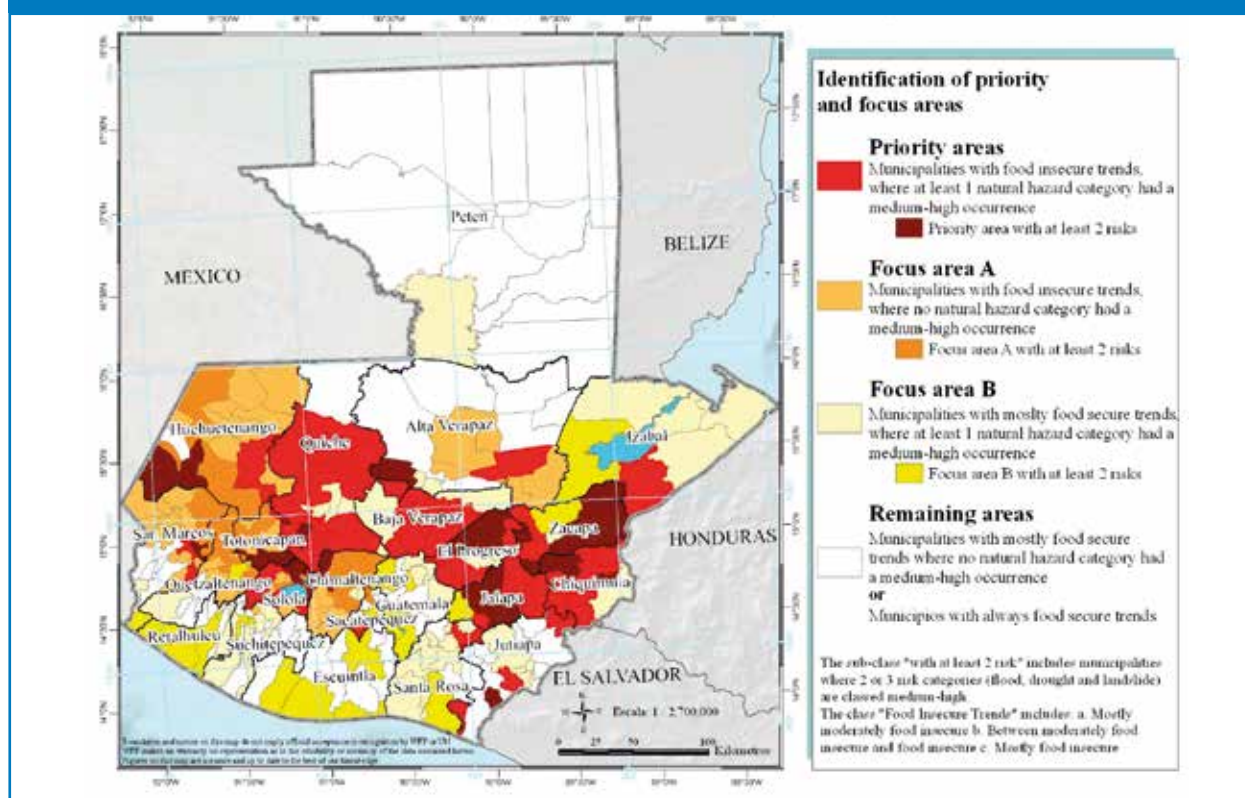
Priority and focus areas with areas at risk of landslides, droughts and floods (based on data from 2008-2012).

This will guide where longer-term efforts to reduce poverty, implement disaster risk reduction (DRR), and strengthen preparedness to protect 'at risk' populations – irrespective of food insecurity status – can be considered.

In Guatemala, the main natural shocks identified were floods and droughts. In the shock mapping example below, **map 2**, highly food insecure people are more likely to suffer from recurrent impacts of shocks as they have less time to recover. The map below shows areas in Guatemala constantly exposed to droughts and floods in the past four years. Areas in dark red, orange and yellow are the most exposed to droughts and floods, while their lighter gradients are less exposed.

The effect of shocks can have greater impacts depending on their type, the levels of land degradation, and the topographical features in which they occur. Certain shocks happen during key livelihood periods - such as the agricultural growing season or when pastoralists are migrating - or can have impacts on infrastructure and access, such as road connectivity to markets. By overlaying the integrated layer of food security, nutrition and shock trends with other information such as aggravating factors and the livelihood types in a certain area, ICA helps refine response strategies and informs the types of programmes and how best to deliver them in specific areas.

3. Aggravating factors

The impact of shocks can be magnified by the status of the natural environment in which they occur. When land is heavily degraded – that is, land that is no longer protected because vegetation cover is lost, soils are laid bare, and is greatly eroded – it becomes unable to withstand the natural elements it is exposed to, such as rain, wind, and high temperatures. Shocks in fragile landscapes are likely to have greater negative impacts, and understanding the types of shocks and the levels of land degradation in which they occur assists in prioritizing where disaster risk reduction (DRR) that stabilizes landscapes and begins to build resilience, and where preparedness should be concentrated. For example, in deforested hillsides and the communities situated below these slopes that are at greater risk from landslides and flooding, even with normal rainfall.

MAP 3. CONVERGENCE OF POVERTY TRENDS, RECURRENCE OF SHOCKS, AND LAND DEGRADATION
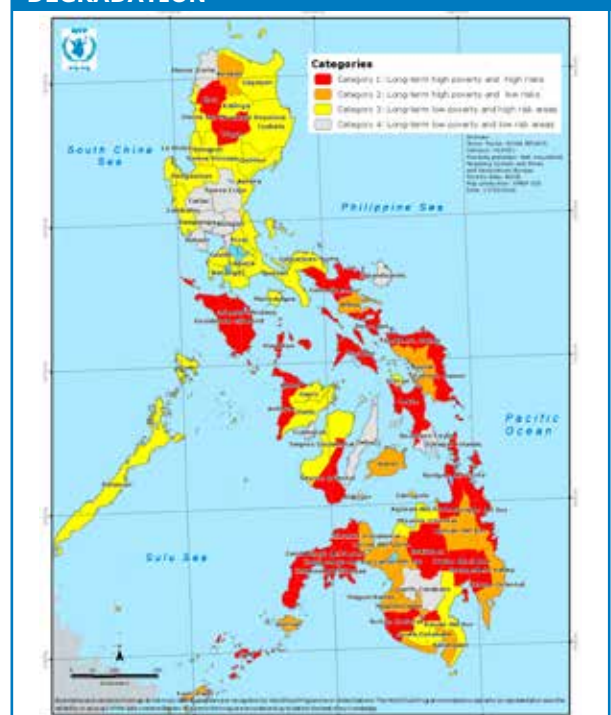
Map 3 identifies geographical areas of convergence of trends of poverty (used as a proxy for food security), exposure to shocks (tropical storms, floods and landslides) and high levels of deforestation **in the Philippines**. Combining these elements, three priority areas have been identified – in red, orange and yellow.

To guide planning, selection and prioritization of areas in which to target specific programmes or strategies, ICAs also include tables showing the latest population figures, average food insecurity level expressed as percentage, and the total number of food insecure people – see Table below. Based on these numbers and their geographical locations partners should, in discussion with government, reach coordinated agreements as to which areas and how many beneficiaries they will assist in support of and complementary to on-going government efforts.
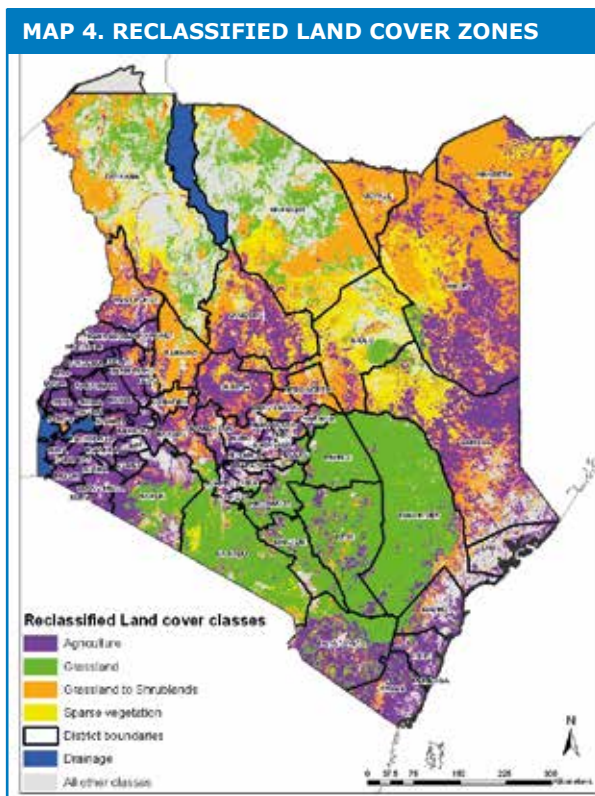
4. Livelihood contexts

To better understand who is being affected, livelihood information is then added to the trend analyses. Livelihood types vary according to agro-ecological zones, have different seasonal patterns, levels, and types of vulnerability, and will be affected by and respond to shocks in different ways.

Land cover information is also added to the analyses, showing the physical land types, such as forest, grassland, etc.. Understanding the links between different livelihoods (such as pastoralist with agro-pastoralists, farmers with urban and peri-urban populations, or IDPs and refugees with host communities) and the interaction between these peoples and their natural environment and response to shocks, informs the range of potential programmes and how they could be implemented.

Region	Province	Focus areas	Population (May 2010)	2012 % Poverty levels	Population (below 2012 poverty level)
Cordillera Administrative Region	Apayao	5	112,636	59.8	67,356
V Bicol	Albay	5	1,233,432	36.1	445,269
VII Central Visayas	Bohol	5	1,255,128	32.5	407,917
X Northern Mindanao	Lanao del Norte	5	607,917	42.5	258,365
X Northern Mindanao	Misamis Occidental	5	567,642	36.6	207,757
XI Davao Region	Davao Oriental	5	517,618	48.0	248,457
XII SOCCSKSARGEN	Sarangani	5	498,904	46.5	231,990
XIII Caraga	Agusan del Sur	5	656,418	38.6	253,377
Total					**3,404,881**

For example, different challenges exist between members in pastoralists households in **Kenya**. In **map 4**, the centre of Kenya is shown to have highly-degraded grasslands. This forces men to move further away in search of pastures and water with their animals, while the elderly and women, who are typically left behind to care for children and young animals, face extreme hardships collecting water and fodder. Assets that address land degradation in this context can alleviate the hardships for those who migrate and for the women who stay behind. With long-term investments in soil and water conservation, these communities can better resist and recover from natural hazards like droughts.

MAP 4. RECLASSIFIED LAND COVER ZONES

Reclassified Land cover classes
- Agriculture
- Grassland
- Grassland to Shrublends
- Sparse vegetation
- District boundaries
- Drainage
- All other classes

Reclassified land cover zones combined with frequency of poor growing seasons and land degradation in Kenya.

5. Additional information

Additional information can be combined and overlaid into the ICA to inform and begin tailoring programme design and complementary responses, and guide deeper thematic exploration for more in-depth analysis. Any additional information layer that is relevant to the context can be integrated into the ICA. For example:

Security and political contexts

These analyses could include conflict (internal, intra-state, between groups), and whether people are in their places of origin, internally displaced or refugees. It can show the geographic relationship of people to host communities and the status of the natural environment. Furthermore, it helps to identify possible constraints in implementing specific programmes.

Markets and prices

Country, regional and global level market prices can have a major effect in compounding existing vulnerabilities, or eroding the asset base of people previously unaffected by shocks or considered 'borderline' in terms of food security. Information from market assessments and price trends can be essential layers in an ICA to identify areas at risk.

Services, markets and infrastructure

Shocks can damage infrastructure that in turn deepens the impact of a crisis. For example, floods can destroy bridges or access roads preventing people accessing markets and health services, and/or the delivery of assistance. Identifying what infrastructure can be affected and the impact this may have on vulnerable communities is a key component in deciding response strategies and appropriate programmes within them.
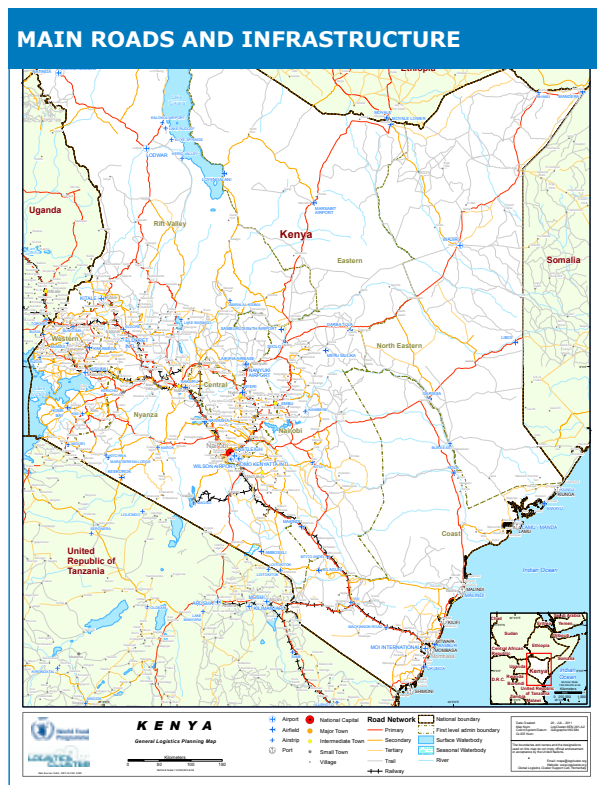
Population densities and locations

The physical location of where people live and population densities inform the potential magnitude of the impact that a shock may have and the types of interventions required. For example: the densely populated east coast of **Madagascar** experiences regular
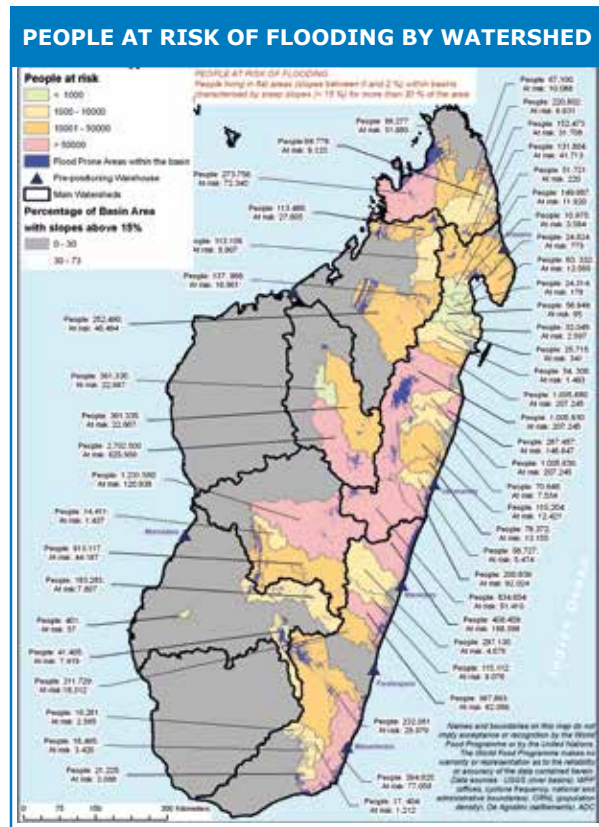
tropical storms and cyclones, requiring preparedness measures before the rainy season, and asset creation to the most food insecure populations in the months before these risks to stabilize landscapes and reduce the risk of disaster, etc.

ICA Roll out

Demand for ICA is high. An ICA has been completed to support resilience programming in Somalia, Kenya, South Sudan, Mozambique, Madagascar, Afghanistan, Philippines, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Niger. Updating of specific ICA elements is ongoing for Madagascar and Haiti and new ICAs are scheduled for Zimbabwe, Chad and Mali. Other ICAs or ICA updates will be conducted according to new programme needs.

# ICA SOUTH SUDAN: AN EXAMPLE

Food security trends

Food security and nutrition trends are based on the last three years of WFP's Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) and IPC data. This provides enough information to distinguish between areas with recurring and deep rooted food insecurity and undernutrition, and those that could be a result of a recent shock.

Food security information is collected three times a year, and data is available for the last 3 years - i.e. there are 9 data sets. To understand what the recurrence of food insecurity in each county was, this data was reviewed and reclassified into three categories to show the number of times that the FSMS identified more than 30% of people being food insecure, as follows:

Food Security reclassification table

No of times (out of 9)	0 to 2	3 to 5	6 to 9
Reclassification	**Low**	**Medium**	**High**
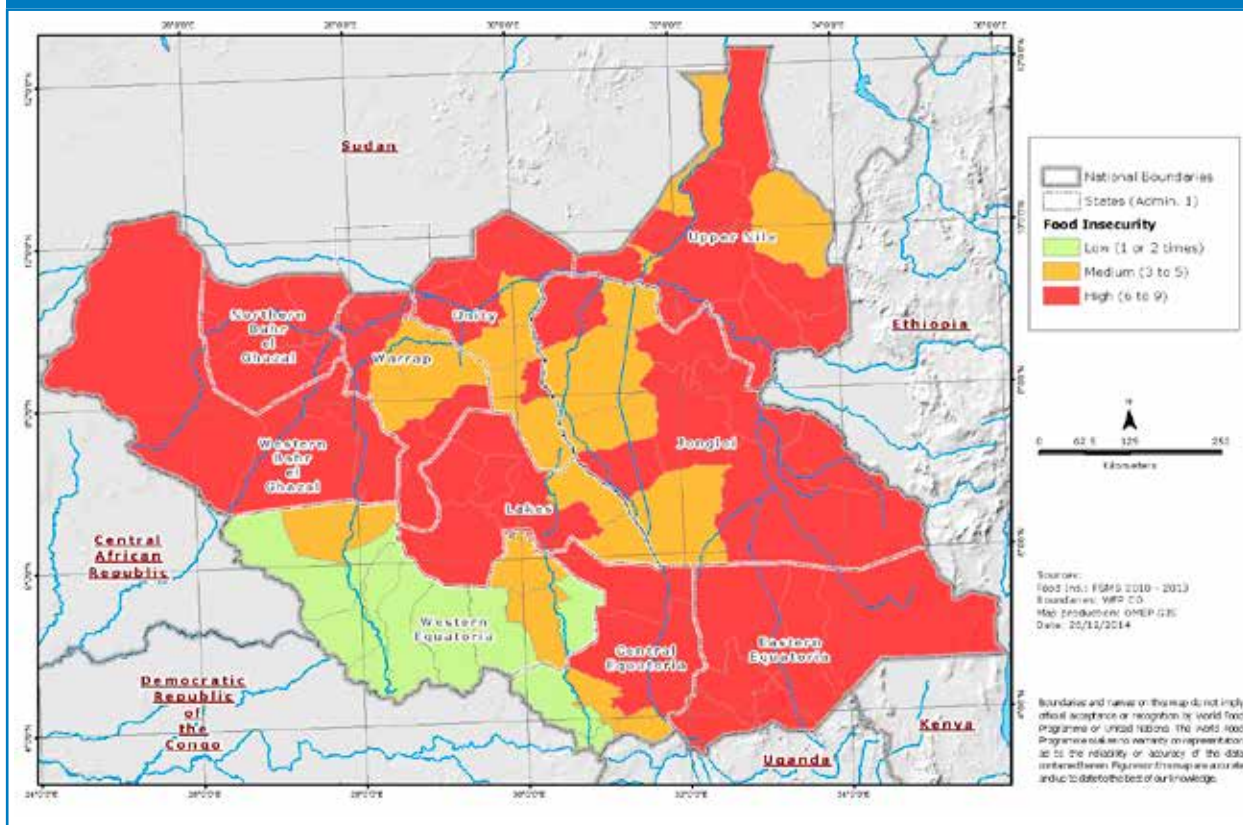
Recurrence of moderate-severe Food Insecurity bu County (prevalence >30%), from 2010 to 2013.

Exposure to shocks

In South Sudan, seasonal shocks are mostly droughts and floods. The map below shows the levels of exposure to shocks, combining the trends of both droughts and floods.

After having estimated the average values of flood and drought risks, overall risk estimation was assigned to each County. This variable was determined through a scoring methodology: for each risk, each

county was assigned the value 0 for low-level risk, 1 for medium-level risk and 2 for high level risk.

Then the values for each risk have been summed and the result - varying from a minimum of 0 (low flood risk, low drought risk) to a maximum of 4 (high flood risk, high drought risk) - has been reclassified following the rules reported in the table below:

Risk reclassification table

		DROUGHT RISK		
		Low	Medium	High
FLOOD RISK	Low	0	1	2
	Medium	1	2	3
	High	2	3	4

RISK SCORE
Low level
Medium level
High level

**TRENDS OF SHOCKS: FLOODS AND DROUGHTS**
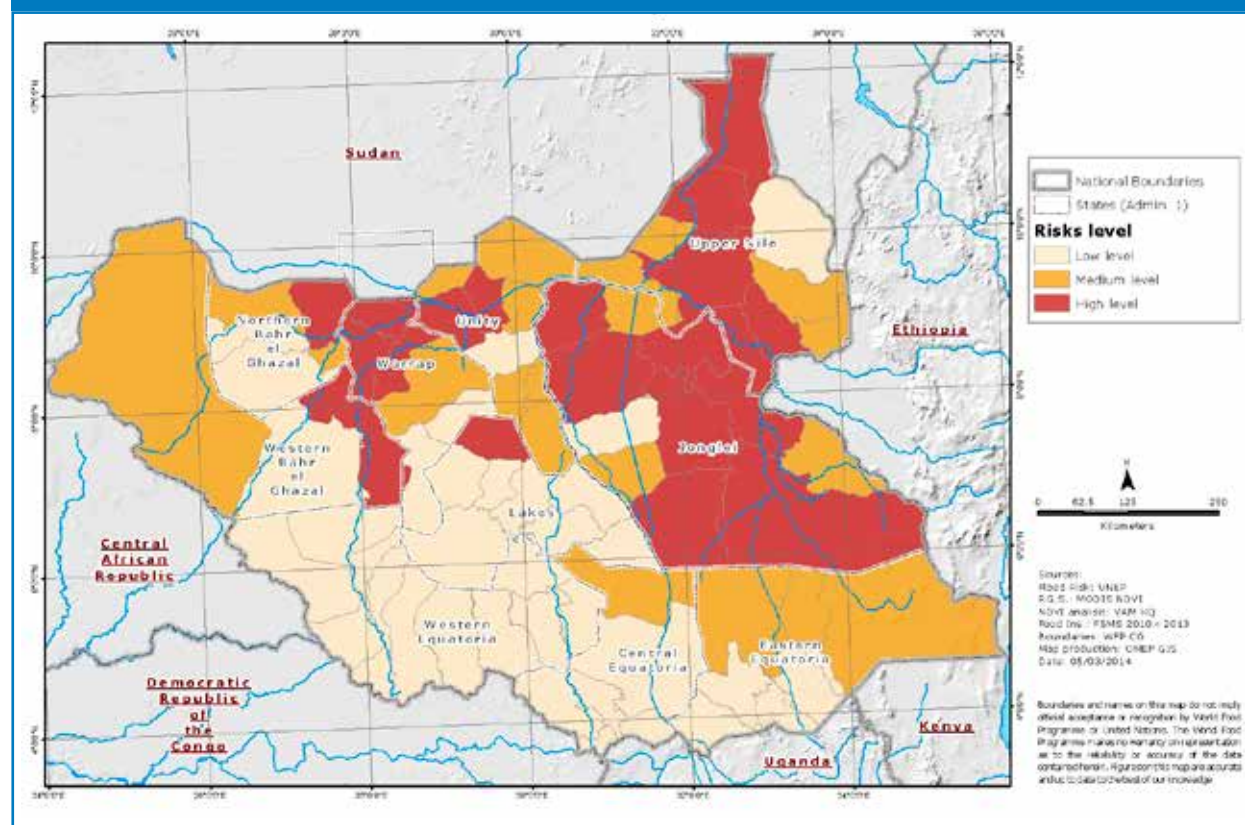
Combined risk of floods and droughts

Final Composite map (food security, exposure to shocks)

The final composite map overlays several sets of maps together, to identify emerging patterns of vulnerability. It indicates where people have been most affected by recurrent food insecurity in the last three years, and what are the main shocks.

Map overlays can be customized to inform different scenarios and can pinpoint where recovery, emergency preparedness or other programme interventions may be more appropriate.

FOOD INSECURITY, SHOCKS AND LAND DEGRADATION
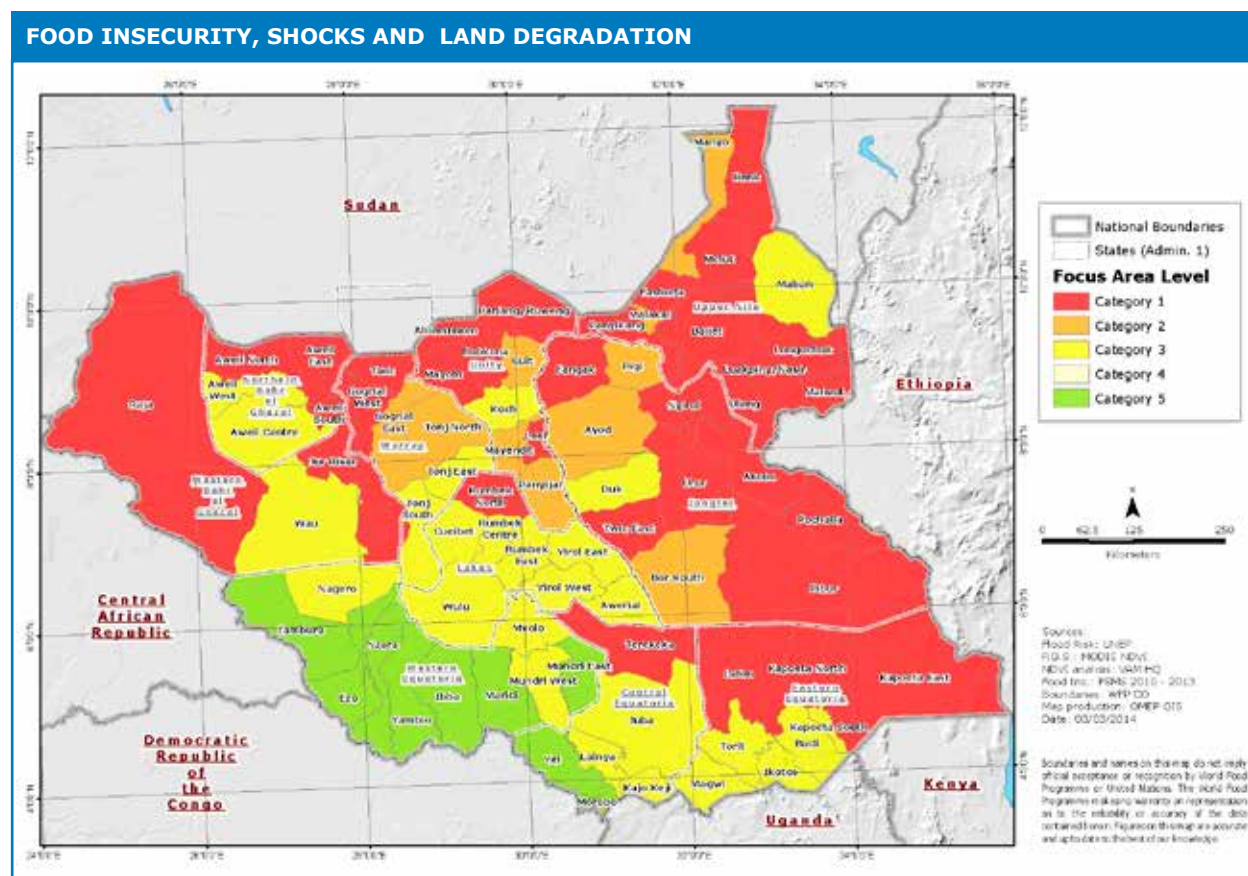
Category descriptions

	DESCRIPTION	BROAD STRATEGIES
CATEGORY 1	**High** recurrence of food insecurity prevalence above 30% **High/Medium** exposure & risk to natural shocks	**Longer-term programming** to improve food security, reduce risk, and build resilience to natural shocks and other stressors
CATEGORY 2	**Medium** recurrence of food insecurity prevalence above 30% **High/Medium** exposure & risk to natural shocks	**Seasonal / recovery programming** to restore and improve food security, reduce risk, and build resilience to natural shocks and other stressors
CATEGORY 3	**High/Medium** recurrence of food insecurity prevalence above 30% **Low** exposure & risk to natural shocks	**Longer-term programmes** to improve food security and reduce risk to natural shocks and other stressors
CATEGORY 4	**Low** recurrence of food insecurity prevalence above 30% **High/Medium** exposure & risk to natural shocks	**Programming** that strengthens preparedness, reduce risk, and builds resilience to natural shocks and other stressors
CATEGORY 5	**Low** recurrence of food insecurity prevalence above 30% **Low** exposure & risk to natural shocks	**Programming** that strengthens preparedness and reduce risk to natural shocks and other stressors

ITHACA/Andrea Ajmar/Myanmar